



United States
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Forest
Service

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Route To:

Subject: 2002 Lincoln NF Insect and Disease Aerial Detection Survey Results

To: Forest Supervisor, Lincoln National Forest

During the week of August 5-7, 2002 Richard Norris, Biological Technician, Forest Health, New Mexico Zone, conducted our annual insect and disease survey flight over the Lincoln NF, Mescalero Apache Tribal lands, and adjacent State and private ownerships. Enclosed is a GIS formatted map showing the insect and disease activity detected during this survey. Please contact us for assistance if you wish to download the ARC/Info data files. For comparison, both 2001 and 2002 survey results for the Forest/District, Tribal Lands, and adjacent and nearby State and private lands are summarized in tabular form in the attached Excel workbook. Copies of this letter and a color-plotted map have been forwarded to the respective Districts of your Forest. Following is a brief summary of the results of this survey:

Lincoln NF

In 2002, the New Mexico fir looper and western spruce budworm defoliated 3,860 acres and 130 acres of the mixed conifer forest cover type on the Sacramento and Smokey Bear RDs, respectively. Aspen defoliation caused by the western tent caterpillar and large aspen tortrix was detected on the Sacramento and Smokey Bear RDs. Douglas-fir tussock moth activity declined to undetectable levels this year. Piñon ips-caused piñon mortality occurred on the Sacramento and Smokey Bear RDs on approximately 650 and 210 acres, respectively. Ponderosa pine mortality caused by a combination of ips beetles, western pine beetles, and roundheaded pine beetles was detected on 19,400 acres of the Sacramento RD and 12,240 acres of the Smokey Bear RD. In the higher elevation, spruce-fir forest cover type true fir and spruce mortality were detected on the Sacramento and Smokey Bear RDs, respectively. These data are summarized in the Excel worksheet "Lincoln NF-Districts 2002."

Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands

With the exception of some minor aspen defoliation caused by the western tent caterpillar and large aspen tortrix, no other defoliator activity was detected on the Mescalero Apache tribal lands. Bark beetle activity on tribal lands totaled 1,845 acres. Ips beetles, western pine beetles, and roundheaded pine beetles caused most of this mortality. Some minor true fir mortality was also detected. Acres of defoliation and mortality are summarized in the Excel worksheet "Mescalero Apache Tribal Lands 2002."



State and Private Lands

Western pine beetle and roundheaded pine beetle-killed ponderosa pines were detected in Lincoln, Otero, and Torrance counties. Mortality in these counties was detected on 1,380 acres. Some minor piñon mortality was detected in Torrance County. These data are summarized in the Excel worksheet "State and Private Lands 2002."

Note: Although we detected a total of 860 acres of piñon mortality on the Lincoln NF and some State and private lands, these acreages are far below the total number of acres affected by the piñon ips beetle. Due to the vast acreage of piñon-juniper woodland in New Mexico, we do not have the resources to survey it all and generally only include this type by special request.

If you have any questions regarding the survey data or would like to download the GIS files, please contact Terry Rogers at (505) 842-3287 or via e-mail at trogers@fs.fed.us.

/s/ T. J. Rogers (for)
DEBRA ALLEN-REID
New Mexico Zone Leader,
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cc: Janet Baca, Dennis M Watson, Leonard Lucero, Douglas L Parker, Regis Cassidy, Debra Allen-Reid

Sacramento RD w/map
Smokey Bear RD w/map